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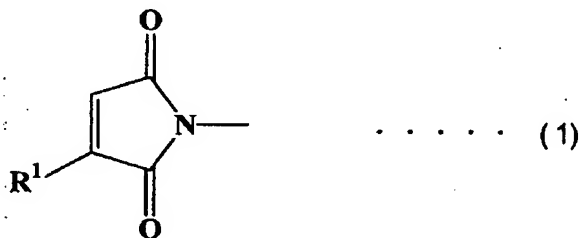
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IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam, comprising a compound which has two or more maleimide groups represented by the following formula (1) and is liquid at ordinary temperature:



where in formula (1), R¹ represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an arylalkyl group or a halogen atom, and wherein said compound has a number average molecular weight of 2,000 to 20,000, and is one or more selected from the compounds described in the following (1) to (3):

(1) an addition reaction product between a prepolymer having two or more isocyanate groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group;

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(2) an esterification reaction product between a prepolymer having two or more carboxylic groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group; and

(3) an esterification reaction product between a prepolymer having two or more hydroxy groups at terminals thereof and a carboxylic acid having a maleimide group.

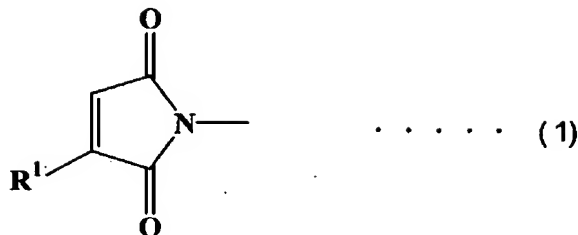
2. (Currently amended) A pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam~~[[.]]~~ according to claim 1, in which said compound is a compound having a polyester skeleton.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet, comprising a substrate and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer formed on the substrate by coating onto the substrate a pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam, and irradiating said coating with an active energy beam to crosslink or cure said coating, in which said pressure-sensitive adhesive comprises a compound which has two or more maleimide groups represented by the following formula (1) and is liquid at ordinary temperature:

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where in formula (1), R¹ represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an arylalkyl group or a halogen atom, and wherein said compound has a number average molecular weight of 2,000 to 20,000, and is one or more selected from the compounds described in the following (1) to (3):

(1) an addition reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more isocyanate groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group;

(2) an esterification reaction product between a polyester having two or more carboxylic groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group; and

(3) an esterification reaction product between a prepolymer having two or more hydroxy groups at terminals thereof and a carboxylic acid having a maleimide group.

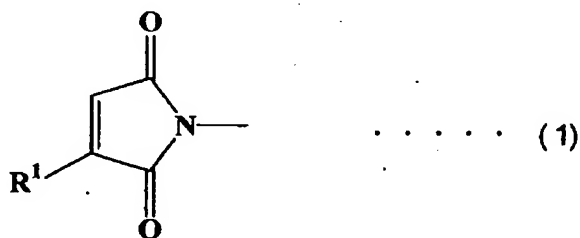
6. (Currently amended) A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet[[.]] according to claim 5, in which said compound is a compound having a polyester skeleton.

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7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9-12. (Withdrawn) A method for bonding articles, which comprises coating an article with an active energy beam curable adhesive, irradiating the coated adhesive with an active energy beam to form a pressure sensitive adhesive layer on the article, and pressing another article onto the pressure sensitive adhesive layer, in which said active energy beam curable adhesive comprises a compound which has two or more maleimide groups represented by the following formula (1) and is liquid at ordinary temperature:



where in formula (1), R¹ represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, an arylalkyl group or a halogen atom.

10. (Withdrawn). The bonding method according to claim 9, in which said compound is a compound having a polyester skeleton.

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11. (Withdrawn) The bonding method according to claim **10**, in which said compound is one or more selected from the compounds described in the following (1) to (3):

(1) an addition reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more isocyanate groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group;

(2) an esterification reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more carboxyl groups at terminals thereof and a compound having a maleimide group and an active hydrogen group; and

(3) an esterification reaction product between a polyester based prepolymer having two or more hydroxyl groups at terminals thereof and a carboxylic acid having a maleimide group.

12. (Withdrawn) The bonding method according to any one of claims **9** to **11**, in which said compound is one having a number average molecular weight of 2,000 to 20,000.

13. (New) A pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam according to claim **1**, in which said prepolymer is a polyester or polyether-based prepolymer.

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14. (New) A pressure-sensitive adhesive curable with an active energy beam according to claim 1, in which said prepolymer is a polyester-based prepolymer.

15. (New) A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet according to claim 5, in which said prepolymer is a polyester or polyether-based prepolymer.

16. (New) A pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet according to claim 5, in which said prepolymer is a polyester-based prepolymer.